

MOVES TO BREAK BUTTER TRUST

Government Petition Alleges Artificial Control of Product.

SHERMAN LAW CITED

Petition Says Prices Are Set in Interest of Cold Storage Men.

"WASH. SALES" CHARGED

Consumers Get No Benefit From Large Creamery Output in Summer.

CHICAGO, Dec. 14.—The Government began action against the butter trust in the Federal Court in Chicago to-day when a civil suit seeking to dissolve the alleged monopoly was filed. The order to begin the action was received from District Attorney James H. Wilkerson, who is in Washington.

The defendants named are the Elgin Board of Trade and the American Association of Creamery Butter Manufacturers, together with its officers and directors.

Sweeping charges of a conspiracy to fix arbitrarily the price of butter in the interest of big manufacturers and cold storage concerns and to the detriment of the farmer, other small producers and the consuming public are made by Attorney-General Wickersham against the so-called trust, which he would destroy as a violation of the Sherman law.

Butter making has drifted to the large manufacturers, the natural increase in volume of business has been curtailed and prices to the people of the country have been enhanced, especially during the winter season, by the operations of the "conspirators," according to the Government's petition.

The following are the officers of the Elgin Board of Trade made defendants: Charles M. Potter, president, Elgin, Ill.; H. C. Christians, vice-president, Richfield, Wis.; J. P. Mason, treasurer, Elgin; Colvin W. Brown, secretary, Elgin; A. C. Hawley, Jerseyville, Ill. Defendant officials of the butter manufacturers are: James A. Walker, president, Chicago; George E. Haskell, vice-president, Lincoln, Neb.; William D. Hoard, treasurer, Port Atkins, Wis.; George L. McKay, secretary, Chicago; E. H. Forney, Henry Bridge, Joseph H. Rushton, Charles Harding, Arthur S. Hanford, Carl W. Kent, Henry A. Page, Samuel Schlosser, William A. Tull, Samuel L. Wadley and W. T. Sherman White, members of the executive committee.

The Government asks that the combination be declared illegal, that the board of trade and the American association be dissolved, that the defendants be enjoined from fixing prices in any way or quantity, prices which do not represent bona fide purchases and sales, and that they also be enjoined from making fictitious or "wash" sales for the purpose of misleading the public.

The bill charges that the combination was formed years ago. The price of butter fixed by the Elgin Exchange, the Government maintains, is not the result of free and open competition, regulated by actual bona fide sales under the law of supply and demand. The price fixing committee of the board is dominated and controlled, it is alleged, by large cold storage concerns, known as centralizers, and cold storage concerns. This committee, the petition adds, "has acted arbitrarily and without any regard to actual values, and fixed prices wholly in the interest of the conspirators."

It is charged that the American Association of Creamery Butter Manufacturers, composed of about forty-five firms and individuals, is used by the "conspirators" to maintain seasonal differences in prices without regard to trade conditions or competition. All members of the association are required, it is alleged, to use the price lists established as the basis of their contracts for the purchase or sale of butter.

The system by which the price of butter is fixed is not generally known to the widely scattered producers, according to the petition. On the contrary, the price is published throughout the United States in newspapers and otherwise, without any accompanying statement of how the price is determined; and readers of quotations thus published, and particularly farmers and other small producers of butter and milk, are led to believe that the price quotations are prices established by actual bona fide sales and purchases of butter in open competition upon the Elgin Board of Trade.

the suit against the "butter trust" Government agents have turned over to the Department of Justice evidence of a "food trust" which, they say, has manipulated prices of necessities for years.

Charles F. DeWoody, chief agent of the Department in Chicago, it was said to-night, had collected evidence which the United States hopes to use in prosecuting cold storage house owners in Chicago, New York, Kansas City, Omaha and many other cities.

Factors, commission merchants and produce dealers are to be the target of the trust prosecution which the Government plans to start. The charges will be that butter, eggs, poultry and meats are diverted from the markets where they would naturally be sold at low prices, and that the "food trust" arranges prices so that vegetables and fruits cannot be gathered and shipped at a profit, causing a shortage in supply and maintaining a high selling price.

The buying of butter, eggs, fruits and vegetables by agents of the alleged trust before they are "produced" is said to be the present subject of the Government investigation. It is said that as soon as the purchasers have acquired a large supply of foodstuffs, which were contracted for before they were available, the storage houses are filled.

If independent producers attempt to sell in the markets, it is said, the storage products are immediately sent out and sold at a discount, which discourages the marketers of fresh articles. The losses of the "food trust" members, it is declared, are overcome by the boosting of prices after the independent shippers and producers are forced from the market.

DE MUMM PUTS BLAME ON WOMAN

Continued from First Page.

with a wink and a smile "cherchez la femme."

Mrs. Barnes was a regular frequent of the races and was generally escorted by de Mumm.

BARNES DENIES MARRIAGE.

Says He Doesn't Know Why Paris Woman Took His Name.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 14.—"It's all a lie. I never married Mary Van Rensselaer. I was a married man when I met her. She wouldn't leave me alone and threatened my life. I haven't seen her for twelve or thirteen years."

Making an emphatic denial of the statement that he had ever been the husband of the woman who is accused of shooting Walter de Mumm, Dr. Harry Davis Barnes, a physician, stood in his office at his home to-day and told the story of his acquaintance with the woman.

"I'll tell the whole story," declared Dr. Barnes. "There is nothing to conceal, nothing to hide. I had an awful time trying to get rid of her. She just became enamored of me, that's all. I couldn't shake her off. But I never married her. I'm not crazy. I wouldn't commit bigamy."

Dr. Barnes is middle aged, of medium height and heavy build. He has a round, pleasant face and a short mustache. As Dr. Barnes searched his memory for facts concerning the central figure in the Paris shooting his two infant children played blissfully in the front hall and his wife, frightened at the sudden turning of the notoriety upon her husband, wept in an adjoining room.

"I didn't know she was using my name until I saw an article printed about her last November which stated that the former Mrs. Barnes was going to try to get a divorce from a man named Creel. Why, I don't know except from the newspapers where she has been during the years since I last saw her."

Asked to tell how he came to know Mary Van Rensselaer, Dr. Barnes said: "I met her in Allentown, Pa., about twelve or thirteen years ago. I was married at that time. I left Baltimore shortly after I graduated and opened an office in Lancaster, Pa., where I was married in August, 1894. Later we moved to Allentown where I met Mary Van Rensselaer. Her people lived near Easton, Pa., but I never met any of them. It was in 1901 that the Allentown Fair was held and I went to it with a few visitors, and of this number seven have since been killed. Col. Roosevelt, who was shot not long ago in Milwaukee, was also in the group. De Mumm was said to Alfred Le Blanc in the balloon race."

Those who have been killed were Ralph Johnstone, whose aeroplane fell in Denver; Tony von Puhl, shot to death in Denver; Jacques Faure, A. L. Welsh, Arch Hoxsey, Lieut. Hans Gerlicke and Col. Theodore Schack.

"I came back to Baltimore about 1900. My wife came with me. But I hadn't finished with Mary Van Rensselaer. She wrote me letters. She never lived in Baltimore so far as I know, but she came here. I had an office in Charles street in those days. She used to put on fine clothes and parade up and down Charles street in front of my office. She wanted me to see her. She did the same thing in Allentown."

"I knew her only about six months. I understood that she later got acquainted with a millionaire in New York."

MRS. BARNES MARRIED TWICE.

Declines to Be Known by Name of Second Husband.

Mrs. Marie Ann Rensselaer Barnes, as she is known abroad, has been successively Miss Marie van Rensselaer, daughter of Edward van Rensselaer, formerly of 309 West Seventy-fifth street; Mrs. David Barnes and Mrs. George Henri Creel, Jr. Her first husband was David Barnes of Baltimore, to whom she was married at the age of 15. They were divorced before she was 18 and she received the custody of their son, who is now 9 years of age.

About two years ago Mrs. Barnes was married to Creel in London. He was the son of a wealthy Chilean and a close relative of the Creel family, supposed to be the richest in Mexico. She always said that the difference in their nationalities prevented them from getting along happily, so they separated. She came back and lived with her parents in this city for a while, later returning abroad to obtain a divorce. At the time

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FIFTH AVENUE AT 46TH STREET

she was married to Creel she adopted the Catholic faith to please his parents. Mrs. Barnes, the name she took after the second divorce, has seen much of the gay life of New York and of foreign capitals. She has been reported at different times as engaged to well known men both here and abroad.

RIOBEVILLE, Pa., Dec. 14.—Mrs. Marie Barnes, who figured in the sensational shooting affray with Walter de Mumm in Paris, is still remembered in this town, where her parents reside.

Her father, a mill worker well past sixty years of age, has now retired and is living as Edward Rensselaer, having dropped the "van" several years ago. He has lately come into a competence, but no one seems to know from what source he obtained his money.

He has three sons and two daughters. Howard and Grover Cleveland Rensselaer live in Philadelphia and Joseph resides in Riegleville. Susan Rensselaer, the sister of Mrs. Barnes, married a man named Brandt and they live in Quakertown, in Bucks county.

EASTON, Pa., Dec. 14.—Mrs. Barnes was known here as Miss Mary Rensselaer. She is a tall, slender woman, strikingly beautiful, a pronounced blonde and a fashionable dresser.

Some years ago she came to Easton and obtained a position as a servant at the Cerver House. She had told her parents she intended to see the world. She was then nearly sixteen years old. She is now twenty-eight. She met Harry Davis Barnes of Baltimore, but her parents did not seem sure she was married to him. They say they only know "what Jane told us." Later she went to New York. She acquired a finish, through the aid of private tutors. The young woman's return visits to her home town were always the events of the year in and around Riegleville. Frequently, it is said, she referred to herself as Miss Marie van Rensselaer, pronouncing the last name as though spelled "Von Rensselaer." At home she was known as "Mary Jane."

She wrote home frequently, and just yesterday her father received a letter from the Carlton Hotel, London, in which she said she was "having trouble with her boy." She said she might come home in a month.

TOSSES A STUDENT FIREMAN.

Captain Barrett of Philadelphia Throws From Auto Hose Wagon.

Capt. William H. Barrett of the Philadelphia Fire Department, who is taking a post-graduate course with New York's department and is responding to alarms on the automobile hose wagon of High Pressure Company 29 on Lafayette street, had a lot of experience last night.

He lost his balance and fell from the automobile as it came to Spring street and Centre street on its way to a fire at 229 Centre street. The Philadelphia student was badly bruised, but he limped in the wake of his mentors. The fire was in the celluloid manufacturing firm of Israel Rothman near Grand street.

The smoke filled a six story tenement in the rear and Capt. Barrett and the other firemen had their hands full trying to quiet the tenants, who swarmed down the fire escapes.

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Large flat muff. Heretofore \$24.50	16.50		Large flat muff. Heretofore \$29.50	16.50	
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Large flat muff. Heretofore \$24.50	16.50		Large flat muff. Heretofore \$29.50	19.75	
Genuine Mole Sets			Genuine White Fox Sets		
Fancy scarf. Heretofore \$24.50	16.50		Animal scarf. Heretofore \$59.50	37.50	
Large flat muff. Heretofore \$39.50	24.50		Large muff. Heretofore \$59.50	37.50	

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Semi-loose model, large roll collar of civet, natural or skunk raccoon. Heretofore \$89.50	55.00		Seven-eighth length, of mole cone fur, striped effect with border. Heretofore \$125.00	85.00	
French Seal Coats			Fur Trimmed Coats		
Three-quarter or full length models, fastened to side with silk ornaments. Heretofore \$89.50	58.00		French seal, collar and cuffs of Persian, chinchilla, squirrel or civet. Heretofore \$175.00	125.00	
Caracul Fur Coats (Civet Collar)			Real Hudson Seal Coats		
52 inch, semi-loose model, long roll collar of civet fur. Heretofore \$98.50	75.00		Full length models of highest grade skins. Heretofore \$250.00	175.00	

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Extra quality pure thread silk; black, white, tan and all shades; silk or lisle sole and garter top; also Embroidered Silk Hose; all weights. Value \$1.35 to \$1.50	.85		Extra quality pure thread black silk hand embroidered, self or colors; also self or white hand embroidered; lisle sole and top. Value \$1.75 to \$2.00	1.35	
Superior Quality Silk Hose			Hand Emb'd Silk Hose		
Pure thread silk; black, white and colors; silk or lisle sole and Dub-L silk garter welt; all weights. Value \$1.65	1.25		Of pure thread black silk, self or white hand emb'd; also black, white, sky or pink, self hand-emb'd. Value \$2.50 to \$3.95	1.85	

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MRS. COREY WON'T LIVE HERE.

She Can't Stand the Tumult and Will Stick to France.

Mrs. William Ellis Corey, who arrived yesterday by the French liner France and was greeted at the pier by her husband, told reporters who talked with her that she never again intended to live in America, although she loved it. She could not stand its tumult, she said, and could find perfect peace in France only in her chateau, which is half an hour's ride from Paris, a city not near so noisy as Manhattan, but still a bit discordant.

She expects to spend most of her time here at the opera, where the melodious sounds will drown the riot of the outer world. She said she was sorry Mr. Corey would not give up his business and live abroad and that her ideal husband was a companion of the good one of France and the good one of America.

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